



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Press Service



Release - Immediate

February 25, 1925.

BIRD MIGRATION STUDIES
MADE BY BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

In order to make proper regulations for the protection of our migratory birds it is necessary to know where and when they are to be found. Such information is furnished by the distribution and migration files of the Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture. These files are the result of many years' work, and a large part of the information in them is original matter that has been obtained from volunteer observers throughout the United States and Canada. These persons send to the Biological Survey in spring and fall the records of their observations of the birds in their respective localities. The bureau has now about 200 observers, some of whom have been sending their reports regularly for over forty years. There are, however, many localities from which information is still needed.

Besides forming the main basis for the provisions and regulations of the Migratory Bird Treaty for the protection of birds common to the United States and Canada, these records are used for mapping the ranges of the various species and for the preparation of faunal reports, distributional bulletins, and migration tables. They may be consulted at any time by bird students interested in this line of study.

In addition to knowing where birds breed, it is desirable to learn something of their numerical distribution and relative abundance. For this purpose censuses of breeding birds are taken at the height of the nesting season. Areas containing 40 to 80 acres are selected and the birds nesting there^{are}/carefully and accurately counted. The results of the combined counts on many such tracts furnish a key to the conditions in the country as a whole. Some of the results that have been obtained by this method of investigation are shown in Department Bulletin No. 1165, United States Department of Agriculture, "Report on Bird Censuses in the United States, 1916 to 1920."

In view of the importance of this work the Biological Survey is very desirous of increasing the number of volunteer cooperators. Although the bureau has no funds to pay for the work, anyone who is willing to undertake it will be furnished full instructions and report blanks by applying to the Chief, Biological Survey, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.